

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 04575 051156Z

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1415

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 4575

E.O. 11652; N/A

TAGS: ECRE, ENRG, EAGR, PK

SUBJ: TARBELA: POWERHOUSE COMMISSIONING

1. ON MAY 1, 1977, THE FEDERAL MINISTER FOR FINANCE, PIRZADA, SWITCHED ON THE FIRST TURBINE AT TARBELA DAM FOR ON-LINE POWER GENERATION. THE FIRST UNIT IS NOW GENERATING 59,000 KILOWATTS OF ELECTRICITY WHICH WILL RISE TO 175,000 KILOWATTS AT FULL RESERVOIR. THE OTHER THREE UNITS IN THE FIRST STAGE OF THE POWERHOUSE, WHICH ARE ALREADY INSTALLED, WERE ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO COME ON-LINE AT MONTHLY INTERVALS BUT THE MINISTER ANNOUNCED THAT ALL WOULD BE OPERATING WITHIN NINE WEEKS. TWO ADDITIONAL STAGES OF THE POWERHOUSE WITH FOUR TURBINES EACH ARE SCHEDULED FOR CONSTRUCTION TO BE COMPLETED BY 1980.

2. THE INAUGURATION OF THE FIRST TURBINE COINCIDED WITH THE FIRST TEST RUNS OF WATER THROUGH REPAIRED TUNNELS THREE AND FOUR. THE STILLING BASINS OF THESE TUNNELS WERE DAMAGED DURING THE EMERGENCY DRAWDOWN OF THE RESERVOIR IN LATE 1975 AND EARLY 1976. THE STILLING BASIN OF TUNNEL FOUR REQUIRED RELATIVELY MINOR REPAIRS WHILE THAT OF TUNNEL THREE HAS BEEN RATHER EXTENSIVELY REBUILT. THE FLOOR WAS ANCHORED TO ROCK 150 FEET BELOW WITH STRESSED CABLES AND A 20 INCH
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OVERLAY OF STEEL FIBER CONCRETE LAID ON THE STILLING BASIN FLOOR. ADDITIONAL DRAINAGE TO RELIEVE PRESSURES WAS INSTALLED BENEATH THE STILLING BASIN FLOORS AND AIR TROUGHS INSTALLED IN THE FLOORS TO REDUCE CAVITATION. MODELLING TESTS IN FRANCE AND COLORADO INDICATE THAT THESE REPAIRS SHOULD SOLVE ALL PRESENT PROBLEMS BUT IF THIS PROVES INCORRECT, ADDITIONAL WORK CAN BE DONE

NEXT FALL AND WINTER WHEN IRRIGATION RELEASES ARE OVER
THE SPILLWAY AND THROUGH TUNNEL FIVE.

3. AFTER THE INAUGURATION MR. PIRZADA ANSWERED SEVERAL
QUESTIONS CONCERNING COST AND BENEFITS. HE SAID THAT
THE REPAIRS TO THE STILLING BASINS HAD COST RS. 7 CRORE
(ABOUT US DOLS.7 MILLION) WHICH HAD COME FROM THE TARBELA
DEVELOPMENT FUND. HE CLAIMED THAT WITH LOW RIVER FLOW
AND LOW RAINFALL DURING THIS RABI (WINTER) SEASON, TARBELA
RELEASES HAD PERMITTED USE OF ALL THE IRRIGATION WATER
REQUIRED THROUGH THE NON-PERENNIAL CANALS IN THE PUNJAB
WHICH HAD NEVER CARRIED WATER DURING THIS SEASON.
CONSTABLE

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